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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VII, No. 5 MARCH 15, 1947 Price 5 Cents

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TOUGH DAYS AHEAD

With House passage of the so-called "portal-to-portal" bill (HR 2517) and its quick referral to the Senate (as S 70), the Republicans in control of Congress and their polltax Democrat stooges have taken off all the masks they wore around election time.

The bill guts the Wage Hour Act, (see Henderson letter below) and thus becomes the first New Deal, pro-labor law that the reactionaries in the House have repealed.

As President Henderson points out, there is still time for action to stop this drive against labor, up to and including a demand for a veto by President Truman.

When the Republicans and the other reactionaries were campaigning for election, none of them said a word about outright repeal of New Deal social laws. All they wanted was certain "improvements." Certain "abuses" had crept in, they said—and these they were going to correct.

Now the cat is out of the bag. Correcting certain "abuses"—such as portal-to-portal claims were alleged to be—has brought the House to the point of wrecking the Wage Hour Act.

The Wage Hour Act is one of the main keystones of the series of protective laws built up under 12 years of FDR. It took years of struggle to get it passed. Now, with only a few hours debate, the Republican controlled Congress wants to repeal it.

This is the first of a series of employer-inspired attacks on labor laws and labor rights. There will be plenty more.

Tough days lie ahead for the workers and for all true progressives. Reaction is riding high—for the moment. Reaction is also riding for a fall.

Recation will get that fall when the workers and other progressives get together in the only way that answers the bosses—the way of independent political action, down in the grass roots, down in the wards and precincts where politics are made.

Until that time, the boss and his stooges in Congress ride high.

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
Formerly the UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA

AFFILIATED TO THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

TWENTIETH AND RACE STS.
Rittenhouse 6-6757 PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

From the office of
DONALD HENDERSON

TO: ALL INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, REGIONAL DIRECTORS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZERS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND PRESIDENTS OF LOCALS.

Dear Sir and Brother:

The House of Representatives of the United States Congress has just voted a bill that in effect repeals the Wage Hour Act. Under a smokescreen of clamor about "portal-to-portal" pay suits, the lower House has passed HR 2517 and sent it to the Senate as S 70.

This bill tears four gaping holes in the Wage Hour Act by:

1. Limiting the time in which suits for back pay owed by the employer can be filed to one year. This alone will let the bosses out of paying millions in money they owe their employees.

2. Making the boss's "custom and practice" the rule on payment for time worked rather than the law. This allows employers to declare any make-ready or other working period "custom and practice" and refuse to pay for it.

3. Letting the employer plead "good faith" as an excuse for violating the Wage Hour Act without fear of punishment. "Good faith" can be claimed merely on the basis of a phone call to the Wage Hour agency, not on law.

4. Allowing the employer to force settlements of claims on workers regardless of what the law says. This means bosses can use intimidation to force workers to sign away their rights.

In other words, this bill repeals the Wage Hour Act and allows the employer to set up his own standards in its place. This means a return of the sweatshops that the Wage Hour Act was supposed to abolish.

This bill is now up in the Senate. It may be voted on by Friday, March 14.

Every member of every Local must pour in wires, airmail special delivery letters, phone calls to his or her two Senators demanding that they vote against S 70 as a vicious attempt to repeal one of the most important labor laws on the books.

After that, we must get set for a campaign to persuade President Truman to veto S 70 if the Senate passes it.

If the reactionaries get away with repealing one labor law, they will repeal or wreck them all.

Fraternally yours,
Donald Henderson
Donald Henderson, General President

DH:bs, uopwa/2

FTA Fights Slave Labor Bills In Congress

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BEHIND THE SUPREME COURT RULING

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Your Facts On Wages

See page 7

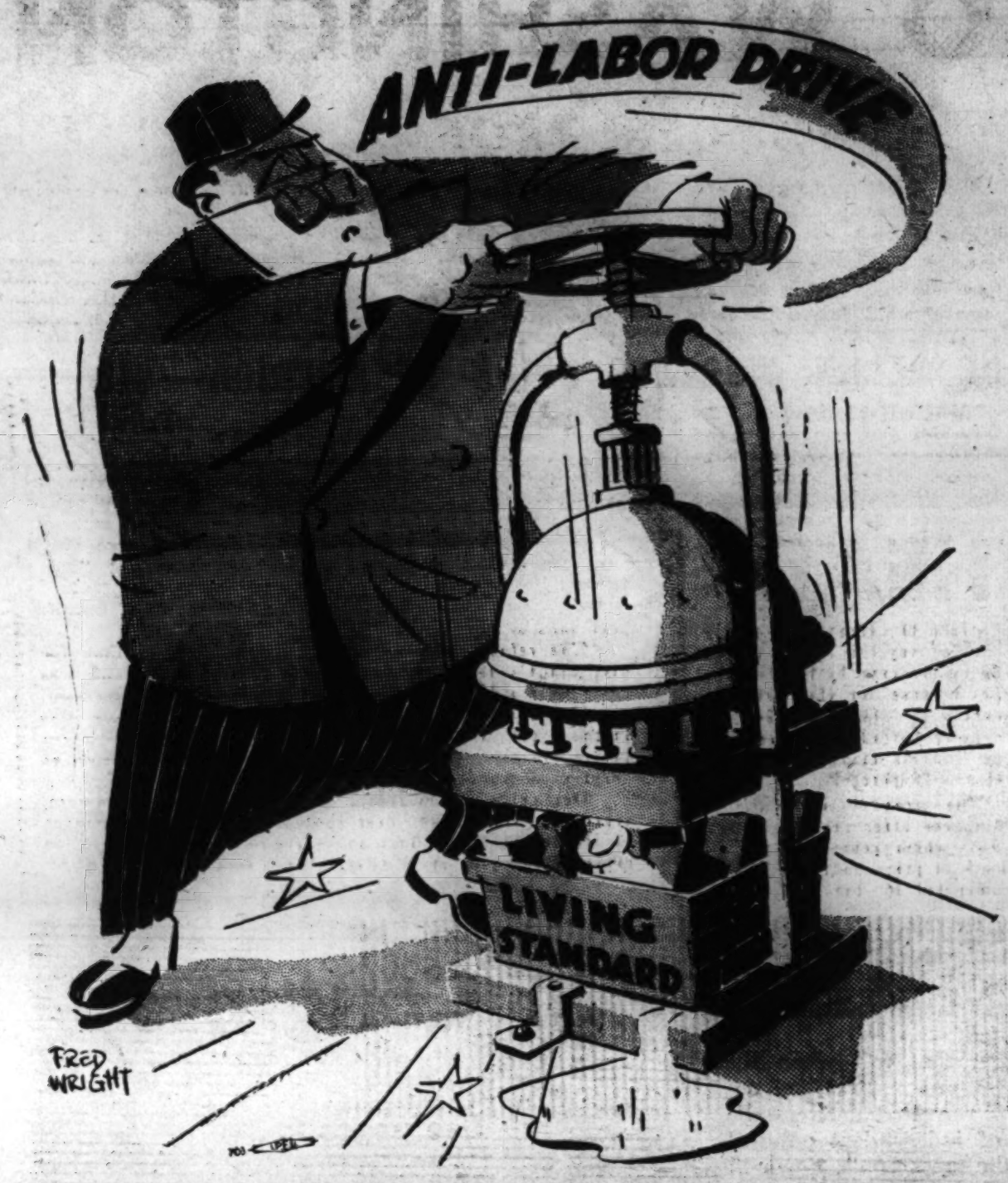
Campbell Pact Extended; US In

The Campbell Soup Company, which tried to lift FTA Local 80's and Local 194's contract and write a new one cancelling out much of the union's gains, was forced to grant an extension this week to permit negotiations to continue.

The extension came after U. S. Labor Conciliator John Manno entered the picture. Manno has been meeting with company and union representatives in an effort to find a way out of the company-created snarl.

Company demands for the new contract, which included the open shop, knifing of seniority and other proposals, were rejected by the union in a mass meeting last week. Additional mass meetings are planned by Local 80 to explain the situation to the membership.

Negotiations have been carried on jointly by the two locals, meeting alternately in Camden and Chicago. As FTA News went to press, latest talks with management were set for March 14.



FROM WASHINGTON

BEHIND THE COURT

By C. W. FOWLER

The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that the United Mine Workers of America, AFL, must pay a staggering fine for violating a Federal court injuunction which forbade them to go on strike last fall.

By this action, the court has opened the way for a return to government by injunction. It has calmly set aside the Norris-LaGuardia Act passed 14 years ago after generations of labor struggle against the power of the bosses in the courts.

The Supreme Court ruling contains a very solemn warning to American workers and their leaders. The warning is clear: do not rely on the Supreme Court to set aside anti-labor legislation. It won't.

The leadership of the AFL has been taking an easy way out of political action by saying: oh well, even if Congress does pass these laws, the Supreme Court will kick them out.

The UMWA decision ought to help upset this notion. Of course, the top leadership of the AFL—and that includes John L. Lewis—hates the CIO so much that they're willing to see all labor suffer if only the CIO can be defeated.

This helps to explain the failure of the AFL to put up a fight against union-busting bills now in both houses of Congress. True, Billy Green has made one or two feeble appearances before a committee, and a stumblebum like Moreschi of the Hodcarriers has been thrown to the House Labor Committee wolves, but that's about all.

There have been no AFL rank and filers permitted to come to Washington, the way FTA and CIO has done. No mass campaign against anti-union measures has been started by AFL. CIO and CIO alone has carried the brunt of the struggle.

Curiously enough, this is precisely why the Supreme Court now turns around and delivers a terrific kick in the pants to the UMW and to all labor.

And John L. Lewis, the man who fought FDR tooth and nail, the man who opposed lendlease to the Soviet Union during the war, the man who struck during the war, and the man who licks the boots of the most reactionary Republicans in America—John L. Lewis also got a personal kick in the pants from the Supreme Court in the form of a $10,000 fine against him.

In this decision, of course, the majority of the Supreme Court is acting the way the bosses want them to act. The bosses and their Congressional stooges who hailed the court's decision with delight are precisely the same Republicans that Lewis, Hutcheson and other top leaders of the AFL support.

Acting this way, the top leaders of the AFL are like the leaders of the Democratic party, who voted only two weeks ago for HR 2517, the bill that tears the heart out of the Wage Hour Act. They're guilty of the supreme folly of all— the folly of attempting to appease reaction in the hope that it will concentrate its fire on something else.

The leaders of the AFL and those people who bank on the Supreme Court to halt the present reactionary drive before it hits them are **wrong**, to put it mildly. If you want to be less charitable, you can say they are deliberately and maliciously wrong, as were the men who tried to appease Hitler at Munich.

However you put it, the result is the same—a blow at all labor, AFL, CIO, independent and unorganized alike.

What is the answer to these maneuvers that now add up to the detriment of every worker? More appeasement? An attitude of hopelessness, of don't-give-a-damn on our part?

The answer isn't that simple. It calls for more and still more protest against the reactionary drive in Congress. It calls for more and still more work to mobilize every worker and every progressive on labor's side.

It calls for still greater work for unity of all workers, AFL, CIO, organized and unorganized, to stop the enemies of all the people, whether they sit in Congress or on a judge's bench.

In one sense, the verdict of the majority of the Supreme Court does us a service. It strips away any illusions that courts are impartial as to labor, that courts are a refuge in time of trouble that we can all hide in.

It also exposes the hollowness of the claims of AFL's top officials to be real leaders of labor, because it has been their program of appeasement and quiescence that has brought the verdict down on all our heads.

And still the answer remains—organize, fight, unite to protect all of labor's hardwon rights and gains.

Unite or go under.

How They Voted

Here's how the House of Representatives voted on HR 2517, the bill that would rip the heart out of the Wage Hour act (see page 1). The bill was passed by 345—56. 230 Republicans and 115 Democrats voted for the bill; 5 Republicans, 50 Democrats and one American Labor Party man (Marcantonio) voted against it. The bill now goes to the Senate.

(Note: This list contains names of Congressmen from districts where FTA has locals only. Those marked "R" voted right—against the bill and for labor, those marked "W" voted wrong—for the bill and against labor. "O" means the Congressman did not vote.)

ALABAMA
George M. Grant (D)—W

ARIZONA
Richard F. Harless (D)—W
John R. Murdock (D)—W

ARKANSAS
E. C. Gathings (D)—W
Brooks Hays (D)—O

CALIFORNIA
Clarence F. Lea (D)—W
J. Leroy Johnson (R)—W
George P. Miller (D)—R
John J. Allen, Jr. (R)—W
Jack Z. Anderson (R)—W
Bertrand Gearhart (R)—W
Alfred J. Elliott (D)—W
Ernest K. Bramblett (R)—W
Richard M. Nixon (R)—W
Norris Poulson (R)—W
Helen Gahagan Douglas (D)—R
Gordon McDonough (R)—W
Donald L. Jackson (R)—W
Cecil R. King (D)—R
Willis W. Bradley (R)—W
Chet Holifield (D)—R
John Phillips (R)—W
Charles K. Fletcher (R)—W

COLORADO
William S. Hill (R)—W

DELAWARE
J. Caleb Boggs (R)—W

FLORIDA
J. Hardin Peterson (D)—W
Emory H. Price (D)—W
George A. Smathers (D)—O
Joe Hendricks (D)—O

GEORGIA
Prince H. Preston (D)—W

ILLINOIS
William L. Dawson (D)—R
Richard R. Vail (R)—W
Fred E. Busbey (R)—W
Martin Gorski (D)—R
Adolph J. Sabath (D)—R
Thomas L. Owens (R)—W
Chauncey W. Reed (R)—W
Noah M. Mason (R)—W
Leo E. Allen (R)—W
Edward H. Jenison (R)—W
William G. Stratton (R)—W

INDIANA
George W. Gillie (R)—W
Forest A. Harness (R)—W
E. A. Mitchell (R)—W
Raymond S. Springer (R)—W
Louis Ludlow (D)—O

IOWA
Henry O. Talle (R)—W
John W. Gwynne (R)—W

KENTUCKY
Noble J. Gregory (D)—W

LOUISIANA
F. Edward Hebert (D)—W
Hale Boggs (D)—O

MARYLAND
Edward T. Miller (R)—W
Hugh A. Meade (D)—W
Thos. D'Alesandro, Jr. (D)—W
George H. Fallon (D)—W
Lansdale G. Sasscer (D)—W

MICHIGAN
George G. Sadowski (D)—R
Jesse P. Wolcott (R)—W
Fred L. Crawford (R)—W
Albert J. Engel (R)—W
Roy O. Woodruff (R)—W
Fred Bradley (R)—W
John Bennett (R)—W
Howard A. Coffin (R)—W
Harold F. Youngblood (R)—W
John D. Dingell (D)—R
John Lesinski (D)—R
George A. Dondero (R)—W

MINNESOTA
August H. Andresen (R)—W
George MacKinnon (R)—W
Walter H. Judd (R)—W

MISSISSIPPI
John E. Rankin (D)—W
Wm. M. Whittington (D)—W
John Bell Williams (D)—W

MISSOURI
William C. Cole (R)—W
Orville Zimmerman (D)—W

NEW JERSEY
Charles A. Wolverton (R)—W
J. C. Auchincloss (R)—W
F. A. Mathews, Jr. (R)—W
Clifford P. Case (R)—W
F. A. Hartley, Jr. (R)—W
Frank L. Sundstrom (R)—W
Robert W. Kean (R)—W

NEW YORK
Robert Nodar (R)—W
John J. Rooney (D)—R
Vito Marcantonio (ALP)—R
W. Sterling Cole (R)—W
Walter G. Andrews (R)—W
John C. Butler (R)—W
Edward J. Elsaesser (R)—W

NORTH CAROLINA
Herbert C. Bonner (D)—O
John H. Kerr (D)—W
Graham A. Barden (D)—W
Harold D. Cooley (D)—W
John H. Folger (D)—W
J. Bayard Clark (D)—W
C. B. Deane (D)—W
Hamilton C. Jones (D)—W

(Continued on Page 8)

FTA news

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 47 Walker Street, New York 13, N. Y.

Editorial Office: 20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

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Subscription: $1 a year to non-members
"Reentered as second class matter December 30, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. VII March , 1947 No.

FTA GOES TO WASHINGTON

Rank And Filers Tell Congress—Hands Off Labor!

FTA went to Washington this week to tell its Congressmen what the folks back home think of union-busting bills now up for action.

For three days the union delegates walked the long marble corridors on Capitol Hill, waited in overstuffed Senators' offices to see overstuffed politicians, listened to the labor-haters on both sides spout their venom in Congressional committees—and went back home resolved that independent political action is a must if workers are going to live.

Led by President Henderson, who testified before the Senate Labor Committee, and by Moranda Smith, General Executive Board member from Winston-Salem, N. C., the 30 union lobbyists made the rounds alongside their union brothers and sisters from the UE the Office and Professional Workers, the Textile Union and the Clothing Workers.

It was CIO's day, awarded with a great show of impartiality by a Senate Committee that has spent weeks hearing every reactionary employer and every tinpot "expert" it could scrape from back of the wallpaper to spout on the subject of "how to control labor."

The day was given reluctantly, with the committee, led by Senator Taft (R. Ohio), snappish and obviously in a great hurry to get back to dreaming about 1948.

Despite the rush, the Senators were forced to listen to some of the facts of life when Henderson told them:

"Historically, these industries, the food and tobacco industries, and the related industries have been the most exploited, the worst paid of all workers.

"I want to call the attention of the committee to the rather remarkable record which this union has had, where open shop conditions have existed historically, where you run into the most difficult type of employers who are least acquainted with the procedure of collective bargaining and who are the least willing to accept collective bargaining.

"In spite of all these factors this union had a perfect record during the war of no strikes. It has had very few strikes since the war. Under the conditions of existing legislation that job has been done with a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of strikes or friction."

The "1948 personality" Sen. Taft, top GOP candidate for the presidential race next year slipped pretty badly during the FTA hearings. Usually Taft at least tries to be polite, but the rule is shaky when it comes to dealing with workers.

Moranda Smith, FTA member and a worker from Winston-Salem, asked for a very brief time to tell the workers' story. Snapped Taft: "You may have just two minutes."

Both Henderson and Sister Smith protested, sending a letter not only to Taft, but also to Carroll Reece, head of the GOP National Committee.

Destroying such existing laws as the Wagner Act, the Wage Hour Act, and setting up new barriers against organizing and outlawing strikes will make the situation "dynamite," Henderson said, pointing out that people who have had a taste of freedom through unions will not willing go back to the old, unrestrained exploitation.

Henderson, in addition to filing a prepared statement (excerpts in Mar. 1 FTA News) spoke at considerable length on the case of the agricultural workers, who "are excluded from the Wagner Act as it now stands, from the Social Security Act, from the Wage Hour Act. They are definitely Class B citizens, made so by the Congress of the U. S. I pull no punches on that," he added.

Yet despite these glaring discriminations, anti-union bills such as Ball's little number S 55 would make it a crime for workers not covered by the Wagner Act to even attempt to bargain collectively and to enforce bargaining by a strike if necessary.

Henderson cited figures showing that the big corporation owners employed the bulk of agricultural workers, with three percent of the farms in the U. S. hiring 43 percent of the farm workers, while 52 percent of farms hire no labor at all.

Attempts to increase the number of workers defined as "agricultural" are constantly being made, he pointed out, with the plan of blanking out eventually hundreds of thousands of food processing and packing workers.

This point was also emphasized by Senator Pepper (D. Fla.), of the committee, who was the only questioner who showed himself anxious to give labor a fair break.

Following Henderson's testimony, the delegates split up to visit their Congressmen and Senators. Calls were made on Senators from North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Illinois, as well as on the Representatives from the districts in which the delegates live.

Delegates also caught a glimpse of the anti-labor machine in operation when they watched the House do its wrecking job on the Wage Hour Act (see page 1).

Following the calls on Congressmen and Senators, the delegates met with FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly to go over impressions and compare notes of progress made.

All agreed that more delegations such as this should come to Washington and all resolved that more independent political action must be number one on the agenda from now on out.

Delegates making the trek to Washington were: Local 10, Cornelius Simmons, Estelle Holloway, Greenville, N. C.; Local 22, Marie Jackson, Etta Hobson, Janie Wilson, Moranda Smith, L. C. Lambath, Theodore Johnson, all of Winston-Salem, N. C.; Local 80, Frances Buckingham, Robert Woolley, Wm. D. Yourison, Della S. Silva, Frieda Wanders, Camden, N. J.; Local 194, Charles Brown, Robert Glover, Chicago; Local 273, Florence Latalovjo, New York.

HUNGER PROFITS SOAR

While Congress argues over the slickest way to shackle labor, profits in the food, tobacco and fiber industries are at an all-time high now "with every sign pointing to still further increases in the near future," FTA President Donald Henderson told the Senate Labor Committee.

"These profit increases are accompanied by exorbitant price increases, and not by large wage increases to the workers," he said. "This fact once again punctures the myth that price rises are caused by wage increases."

The 1946 profits of 21 leading food and tobacco concerns were nearly three times the average of 1936-39, Henderson pointed out. The way this kite is still going up is shown by the fact that the increase for the last three months of 1946 over 1945 was 86 percent, while the increase for the first six months of '46 over '45 was 28 percent.

"The greatest increases are thus seen after the first half of 1946, which coincides with the death of price control—a murder committed by the same leadership that now dominates the present Congress," Henderson added.

"The dangers to the national economy in this situation are obvious," Henderson said. "Inflated prices, inflated profits, and a disproportionate share of the national income going to labor will inevitably produce an economic crash."

Yet Congress, with its plans to destroy labor's rights and gains, is out to smash the "only force that stands against this threatening economic crash—the organized labor movement."

HIT TAFT INSULT

Senator Robert A. Taft and Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, may well think twice before they try to give the brush-off to another union witness.

At least they will swallow hard a couple of times when they read a letter from FTA Pres. Henderson and Board Member Moranda Smith sharply protesting the GOP leader's arbitrary attempt to limit Sister Smith's testimony on anti-union bills to two minutes.

"The refusal to allow anything like adequate time for Miss Smith's testimony came from Senator Taft, and was delivered in a brusque and emphatic manner," the letter said.

"This attempt on the part of Senator Taft to limit Miss Smith's right to tell the story of the conditions of Negro tobacco workers in this country can only be interpreted as aimed at all workers, white or Negro.

"Our union, which fights for the rights of all workers, Negro and white alike, must conclude that the leadership of the Republican Party does not intend to keep its pledges to uphold these rights or to extend them where they are denied."

President Henderson and Executive Board member Moranda Smith tell the Senators what labor-busting bills would mean to the welfare of the people. Sister Smith was rudely cut off by Sen. Taft (Ohio), leading Republican candidate for the White House in 1948. Taft snapped at her: "You have exactly two minutes" when she sought to tell the workers' story.

More than 30 FTA rank and filers from New York, Winston-Salem, Greenville, N.C., Chicago and Camden, N.J. got a practical education in how Congress works against them when they spent three days in Washington visiting their own Congressmen. Here they listen to CIO testimony.

TARGET FOR TORIES—YO

"Make unions bargain collectively," says the NAM. Is this intended to create the impression that unions **refuse** to bargain collectively while it is the employers who are insisting on collective bargaining? To recognize this for the sheer nonsense it is, one need only stop for a moment and think about what the word "collective" bargaining means.

For generations it was the practice of employers to deal with each individual worker, to offer to each worker the wage which the employer would pay, and to hire or fire the workers on the employer's own conditions. That was individual bargaining.

Unions came into being because the workers sought equality in bargaining power with the employer. They could not hope for that equality in individual bargaining. The union was a means of substituting **collective** bargaining in place of **individual** bargaining.

In other words collective bargaining is the opposite of individual bargaining, and collective bargaining is the very purpose for the existence of labor unions. A labor union by its very nature cannot bargain otherwise than collectively.

That is the very purpose and intent of the much maligned Wagner Act. It requires that the employer bargain **collectively** with the organization which the workers have established for collective bargaining. The Act does not require the employer to yield to the worker on any condition of employment; it requires only that the employer meet with the union if the workers so desire and bargain with the union as the collective bargaining agency.

Does the NAM now mean to imply that employers are insisting on collective bargaining but the unions are insisting on a return to individual bargaining? Is that what the NMU means when it says, "Make unions bargain collectively"? Clearly that would be nonsensical; and equally clearly, if unions were doing that, the NAM would not be complaining.

'Cooling Off' Proposals

This implication that unions are refusing to bargain is similar to that which underlies the equally widespread call by anti-labor groups for legislation to make unions engage in a cooling-off period before calling a strike.

Both slogans try very hard to create a public impression that unions are unreasoning groups of men who insist upon rushing into strike action without careful deliberation, without considered and reasonable bargaining, and without reckoning the cost to themselves and the community. "Therefore", say these sloganeers, "make these unions cool off before they call the strikes; make them bargain in good faith before they call the strikes."

Do the facts justify any such implications?

The Actual Facts

In 1946 there were some four or five major strikes which were widely recognized as representing the main core of the strike crisis of the early part of the year. There was a strike in steel; there was a strike in the automobile industry; industry. Were any of these strikes the result of hot-headed and impulsive action by labor unions? Were any of these strikes the outgrowth of any failure of the unions to make every effort to engage in reasonable collective bargaining? Were any of these strikes called in the face of reasonable employer efforts to bargain collectively?

In the **steel** strike the demands initially presented by the union were delivered to the employers in October of 1945. They were negotiated for the succeeding months and no strike was scheduled or contemplated or announced before the middle of January in 1946.

In the **automobile** industry the negotiations preceding the General Motors strike took better than 60 days. In that strike, too, when a fact finding Board recommended certain terms of settlement it was the union which accepted and the employer which rejected the proposal.

In the **electrical** industry the negotiations preceding the calling of any strike were as extensive as those in each of the other two industries.

Does this establish a record of union unreasonableness in the face of employers' willingness to bargain? Or does it point out that despite the best efforts and intentions of the Wagner Act employers are still in a position where they can make a sham of the collective bargaining process by engaging in all the forms of negotiations while at the same time obstructing any reasonable settlement?

Behind The Slogans

So much for the slogans. Now what are the proposals which are offered under cover of these slogans?

The one most widely urged takes the form of a so-called cooling-off period. The proposal usually contains a suggestion that before calling strikes unions must send certain kinds of notices to the employer and to government officials, that there must be a certain minimum period of conference, and thereafter certain additional notice of varying duration. In all, these usually add up to a requirement that before calling a strike a union must give the employer extensive advance notice of its intent to call the strike, usually for at least a period of thirty or sixty days or sometimes even more.

In both forms, however, the proposals have the same evil foundations and effects.

In both forms, in the first place, the proposals by their very nature seek to create a public impression adverse to unions. By their very nature the proposals seek to create the impression that it is unions which have created recent labor difficulties and that it is unions which must be chastised. The true facts on this we have already pointed out.

More important, however, these proposals by their very nature play into the hands of employers and accomplish results seriously weakening to the unions in the collective bargaining process.

It is a well-known fact, particularly to leaders of labor organizations, that the power of the union to organize and conduct a strike, if one should be necessary, depends in large measure on the morale the men and women who comprise the union.

A Single Objective

To organize a strike requires planning, timing, understanding and above all complete and detailed preparation. This being so, it is a matter of extreme moment to the organization that it be able to time its strike action properly and effectively. It is a matter of great moment to the organization that it not be placed in the position of scheduling a strike and calling it off and scheduling it and calling it off and delaying it, at the whim and command of a government official or dependent on the stalling tactics of the employer.

All of these proposals have a single major objective! They subject the union to artificial delays, to artificial extensions, to artificial uncertainties which make it more difficult to plan and organize an effective strike.

There is, in addition, an effect produced by these delaying proposals, these cooling-off proposals, which actually forces strikes on many occasions when strikes would not be needed or desired. These cooling-off periods set an official stamp and determinant as to when a strike should be called.

Thus, far from preventing

Still Time To Save Your Union And Your Job

The bosses and their agents in Congress are driving hard to pass bills aimed at wrecking our union and wiping out our wages and jobs. There's still time to stop them, if we act NOW!

Write, wire your two Senators and your Representative in Congress — tell them —

Hands off Labor's rights — leave the Wagner Act, the Wage Hour Act, the Anti-Injunction Act and other labor laws alone!

AMERICAN LABOR MUST STAY FREE!

Send wires, letters to Senators at Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., and to Representatives at House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.

YOU AND YOUR UNION

This is the third installment of the CIO pamphlet "The Drive Against Labor," which tells the story of the bosses' plans now shaping up in Congress. Read it, pass it around, order copies from CIO Publicity Dept., Washington 6, D.C. (10c each, 100 for $7.50).

FTA News will run more instalments of the pamphlet until it is finished, because the editor believes it to be the best explanation of the whole drive to cut your wages and your living standards yet written.

The pamphlet was prepared under the direction of Lee Pressman, general counsel, CIO.

strikes, these delaying cooling-off period provisions in statutes have only one major effect: they weaken the union in its organizational efforts in preparation for the strike. At the same time they frequently provoke premature strikes and frequently cause strikes which would not otherwise take place. As to all these proposals a set of simple conclusions may be stated:

1. These proposals are not supported by any of the facts of the strike situations they are supposed to remedy.

2. They are part of a campaign to discredit and vilify labor and obscure the true facts as to the cause of strikes.

3. They will have no effect on labor relations other than to harass and weaken unions in the collective bargaining process.

The Wagner Act

To refer to the Wagner Act as "one-sided" is a thorough confusion of ideas.

Prior to the passage of the Act the rights of employers and employees were completely out of balance. Employers had the uncontested right to pool their resources and engage in collective action through the formation of corporations. The corporations themselves were permitted to band together, for the purpose of presenting a united front to labor on the matters of wages, hours and working conditions.

On the other hand, the worker was helpless as an individual to cope with the enormous concentrated bargaining power of the employers.

The employers possessed and used many highly effective weapons to destroy unions. Discharge, blacklisting and espionage were but a few of the weapons available to him for such purpose. The employee, however, had the bare legal right of self-organization — and nothing more. Any collective action which he tried to take was promptly smashed by his employer.

The purpose of the Wagner Act was to relieve, at least in part, this glaring inequality.

It did so simply by forbidding the employer to use his economic power to destroy the right of self-organization of his employees. The Act thus merely placed employer and employee upon a plane of equality in one limited respect, namely, freedom to organize for collective action. None of the other legal rights of the employer was taken from him.

Since the Wagner Act thus merely restores a partial equality where enormous inequality existed before, it is difficult to see how it can be called one-sided.

Furthermore, the Act accomplishes its purpose in the mildest possible way. No criminal penalties attach to violation of the Act. Not a single employer has ever gone to jail under the National Labor Relations Act while employees are subject to severe jail sentences by anti-labor judges for even threatening interference with the property rights of employers.

It is true that the Act imposes obligations only upon employers rather than employees—but to attribute one-sidedness to the Act for that reason is silly. It would be equally unrealistic to assert that game laws are one-sided because they make no provision to protect the hunter against the birds which he is forbidden to shoot.

The inequality which the Act sought to remedy grew out of employer interference with self-organization of employees. There is no corresponding threat by employees to the self-organization of employers. Certainly no law is needed to prevent employees from restraining or coercing employers in the exercise of their right to self-organization and collective bargaining.

Every proposal which is now made to "equalize" the Act has been urged for years by groups opposed to collective bargaining. They have as their real purpose the hope of interference with the self-organization of employees and the destruction of their unions.

Creating False Issues

A good example of the way in which critics of the Act create false issues to hide their real purpose can be seen in the so-called "free-speech" issue.

Many critics of the Act complain that while an employee enjoys free speech under the Wagner Act an employer does not. But what are the facts? The Labor Board has held in scores of cases that the employer is free under the Wagner Act to discuss trade union matters with his employees and to advance arguments to them against unions. There are any number of Board decisions in which the Board has had under consideration statements, notices and speeches by the employer involving an aggressive campaign against unions and their leaders. In all of these situations the Board has held that the utterances of the employer are protected by free speech.

The great majority of the employers today use free speech not merely to discuss issues of trade unionism but openly to attack unions, their objectives, their leaders and their program. Shielded by free speech they openly electioneer in Labor Board elections, even though the selection of the employees' representative is primarily the employees' business.

The Wagner Act respects employers' freedom of speech and the Supreme Court has so held. As a matter of fact the Constitution protects employers' freedom of speech; if the Wagner Act interfered with such freedom it would have been held unconstitutional.

It is only when an employer's speech carries threats of discharge or warns of economic reprisal that the Labor Board holds that an unfair labor practice has been committed. There is no constitutional right to yell "fire" in a crowded theatre and there is likewise no constitutional right to coerce employees through use of economic power into abandoning their union. The cry of "free speech" is merely raised as a smoke-screen to justify amendments to the Act which in fact would permit employer intimidation.

Employers' Petitions

A similar type of complaint relates to the fact that employers have no right to file petitions for elections under the Wagner Act. At the present time the Labor Board entertains such a petition from an employer who is confronted by claims of two rival unions to represent the employees. But it refuses such petitions when there is one union in the picture.

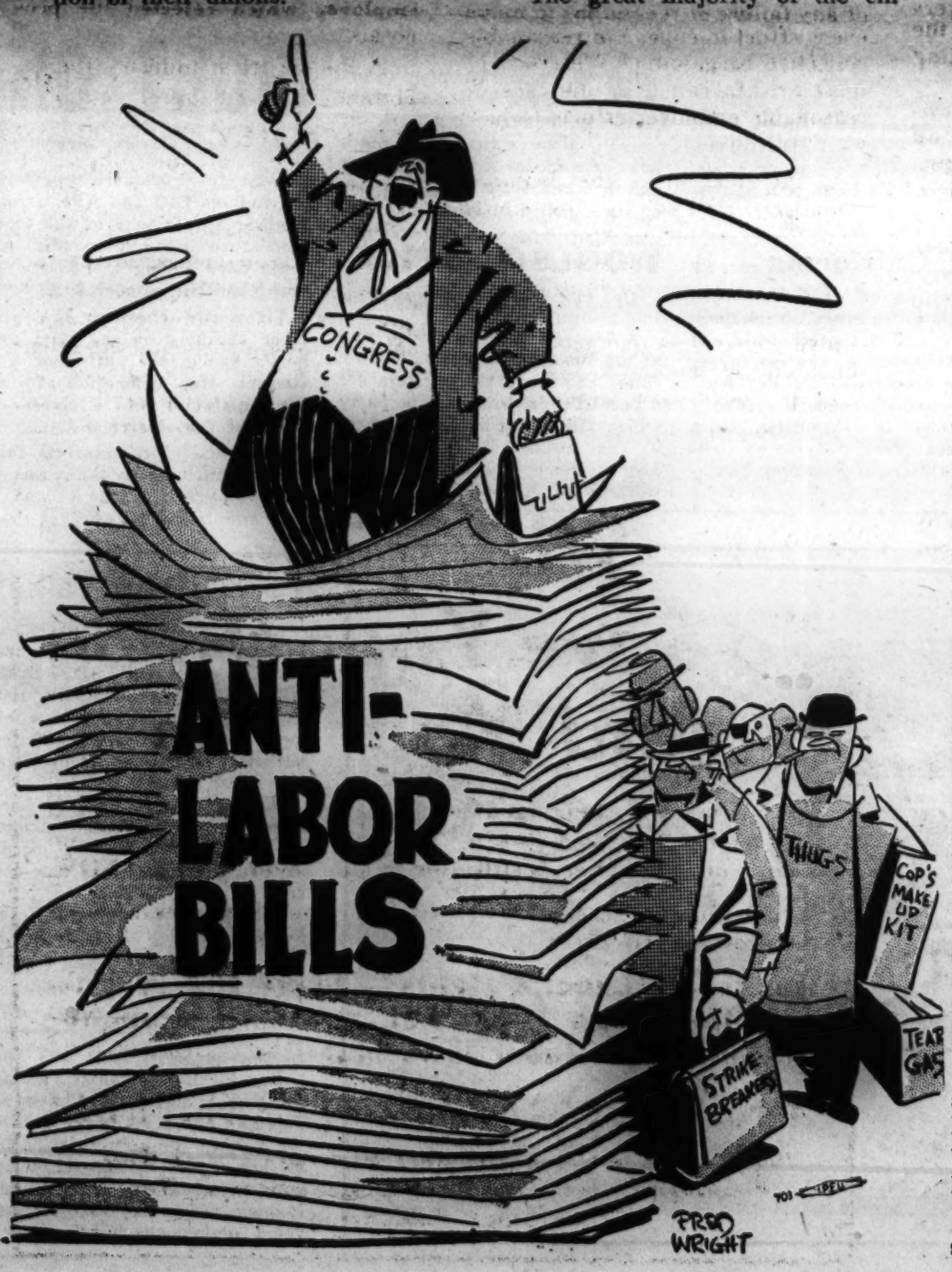
Simple logic justifies such a refusal. In the first place, the right of employees to choose their representative when and as they wish is no more the affair of the employer than the right of the stockholder to choose directors is the affair of the employees.

In the second place, the employer is not injured by the fact that he cannot petition the Board for an election. The employer has no obligation to bargain under the Act until a union approaches him for collective bargaining. At that time the union must demonstrate that it has been designated by a majority of the employees. If the employer in good faith doubts that the union represents a majority he is 'not obligated to bargain with it and may refuse to bargain with it until after that issue is settled by an election.

On the other hand, if the employer were granted this right it would seriously prejudice the rights of his employees. For the employer could then seek an election as soon as a union had started an organizing campaign in his plant. By forcing a vote at that time, the union would be sure to lose.

The same would be true where an employer had engaged in unfair labor practices and thereby prevented organization among his employees.

No, the Wagner Act is not "one-sided."



STATE STOOGES MATCH U.S. ANTI-UNION DRIVE

As FTA President Henderson pointed out in his testimony on anti-labor bills before the Senate Labor Committee (see page 3), the bosses' stooges in the state governments are using the anti-union hysteria to put across a union-busting program of their own.

Forty-four state legislatures are meeting in 1947. A majority of them either have already adopted drastic anti-union laws or are working on them at this moment. Twelve states have such laws on the books.

FTA locals have taken part with other CIO and AFL unions in fighting a number of these state drives against labor. Check your state and see what your local can do.

(NOTE: FTA News is anxious for stories of FTA local and Council activity in fighting these bills. Send your story in now—next deadline is March 24.)

A Federated Press survey of this anti-union campaign follows:

CALIFORNIA: Some seven major anti-labor bills are pending, including proposals to outlaw the closed shop, jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts, impose an 80% state tax on money won in portal-to-portal suits, restrict payment of unemployment insurance, permit state intervention in disputes at the request of either party and to make contracts enforceable in the courts.

GEORGIA: Bills outlawing the closed shop, dues checkoff and picketing have passed the senate, which has also approved a constitutional amendment banning the closed shop.

INDIANA: Organized labor here is concentrating its fire on seven major bills which would outlaw all forms of union security, secondary boycotts and mass picketing, legalize night work for women, allow railroads to place heavier work-loads on their crews and lift restrictions on the use of state police in labor disputes.

IOWA: Measures outlawing the closed shop, curbing picketing, permitting unions to be sued on collective bargaining contracts and barring portal-to-portal suits are awaiting action.

MICHIGAN: Proposals would prohibit the closed shop, require unions to incorporate and make monthly financial statements, outlaw strikes in public utilities and require the majority of a union's membership to vote approval of strikes.

MINNESOTA: Two years ago labor here successfully defeated an attempt to ban secondary boycotts. This year the same bill is back along with a constitutional amendment outlawing the closed shop, a bill forbidding strikes by public employes and a measure permitting unions to be sued in court.

MISSOURI: One omnibus bill would outlaw the closed shop, require unions to file financial statements, provide for compulsory arbitration in certain labor disputes and require a cooling-off period before strikes or lockouts. Another whould make it illegal to picket or interfere with newspapers or radios and still another would require union incorporation.

NEW YORK: A proposed constitutional amendment outlawing the closed shop and bills banning strikes by public employes, limiting pocketing and requiring annual financial statements from unions are among those pending.

OHIO: An omnibus bill has been introduced in the house which would outlaw closed or union shop contracts except when approved by four-fifths of the employes in a secret election, prohibit unions from making political contributions, require financial statements by unions, outlaw union welfare funds and prohibit strikes except when authorized by a secret majority vote of the membership.

OREGON: A bill outlawing the closed shop has been introduced.

PENNSYLVANIA: A bill barring strikes in public utilities and providing for compulsory arbitration of such disputes is awaiting action.

TEXAS: Eleven bills are in the hopper, including a right-to-work proposal outlawing union security and measures forbidding strikes by public employes, outlawing mass picketing, secondary strikes, secondary boycotts and secondary picketing, and prohibiting strikes in public utilities.

WASHINGTON: A constitutional amendment banning the closed shop is in the works.

WISCONSIN: Dozens of anti-labor bills have been introduced, including a proposal for financial reports by unions. Another would strengthen the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board, which is already used as a device for sidestepping the NLRB, by granting it the right to decide when strike votes can be held. Others would limit picketing and make it illegal for a striker to ask a worker not to scab. One bill calls for an investigation of the Allis-Chalmers strike.

FTA IN CALIFORNIA FIGHTS UNION BAN

FTA, together with the rest of the CIO in California, is mobilizing for a two-front fight against impending anti-labor legislation.

Unions in California face not only the national anti-labor front in Washington but an identical counterpart in the state capitol at Sacramento.

Taking their cues from Senators Ball, Taft, et. al., state legislators have introduced bills banning the closed shop, making breaches of contract punishable by law and lawsuit, outlawing jurisdictional strikes, allowing further use of injunctions, etc.

All CIO locals in California now have before them a program of action against this legislation hammered out by the executive board of the California CIO Council at its meeting in Los Angeles, February 21-23.

The program calls for union delegations to visit legislators. It calls for community mass meetings, for postcard, letter and petition campaigns. It calls for joint action with the AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods and independent unions.

It also calls for support of the continuation work being done by the Statewide Legislative Conference, which recently mobilized progressive forces in California for an all-out fight against reaction.

Two prominent FTA members, Holman Day, President of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Local 78, Salinas, and N. E. Daniels of Local 82, Modesto, are members of the Continuations Committee.

High on the conference's list of projects is a housing motorcade to Sacramento March 23-24 to protest lack of legislative action on the state's housing crisis. California FTA locals will be represented in the cavalcade.

INDIANA FTA JOINS FIGHT ON GAG LAWS

By Alta Coleman, Reporter

Some 1,000 workers representing Indiana CIO and AFL unions jammed the balcony of the state legislature in Indianapolis for three days during the debate on anti-labor bill number 392.

Vigorously cheering the pro-labor speakers on the floor and loudly booing the anti-labor legislators, the delegation forced the legislators into a recess on the first day, March 5.

When the representatives failed to return after their recess. the workers figured it was a stall and demanded whether their state representatives had gone on a sit down strike. Finally, after much clapping and calling for justice, the legislators returned to announce that the body would adjourn until the next day.

On March 6 and 7, the labor delegation put the heat on a little stronger and more pro-labor amendments were added on to the bill. It was finally referred back to committee.

If the anti-labor legislators think this is the end, they are sadly mistaken, for Indiana labor is determined to see the bill buried.

FTA School Set for California

There's a common item on every FTA agenda in California and Arizona these days — the West Coast FTA leadership training school, to be held at Asilomar, California, March 30-April 5.

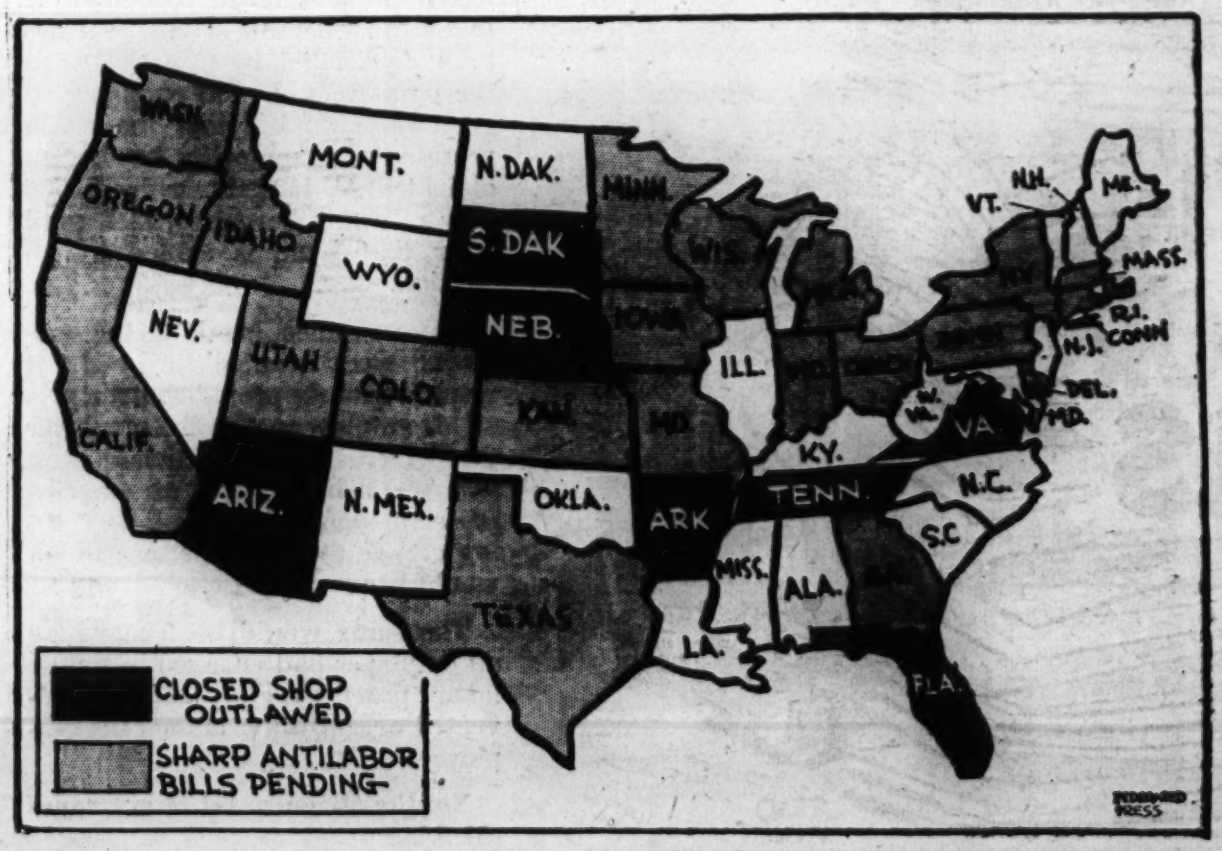
The call, dispatched to all locals in the California-Arizona region early this month, lists the following agenda, "Grievances, organization of executive board and committee work, organizing, how to combat the economic and political power of the employers in our industries, making leaflets, preparing reports, etc."

Asilomar is a beautiful resort hotel near Pacific Grove on California's historic Monterey peninsula.

WOOLSON SPICE

By Virginia Lee, Reporter

A 7½c an hour pay raise won at the Woolson Spice Co., Toledo, Ohio, was made the occasion for a Local 297 celebration. The party which the Local is throwing at its next meeting on March 6 will also welcome into the union the workers of Karavan Coffee Co.



Start Pact Talks

By Alice Leslie, Reporter

Preparations for contract negotiations at the Acme-Evans Milling Co., in Indianapolis, Ind., were made at Local 84's recent membership meeting where International Organizer Emil Dean was guest speaker.

Brother Dean brought the Local a report of the recent national convention and led the discussion on the draft for a new contract.

President Walter Hill commended the shop stewards for the fine job they are doing in the plant.

Correction

Representative John Rooney (D. N.Y.) of Brooklyn was not listed in the FTA News as voting against the appropriation bill to kill rent control. After the vote was taken, Congressman Rooney corrected his vote and voted against the bill.

Send Lists To News

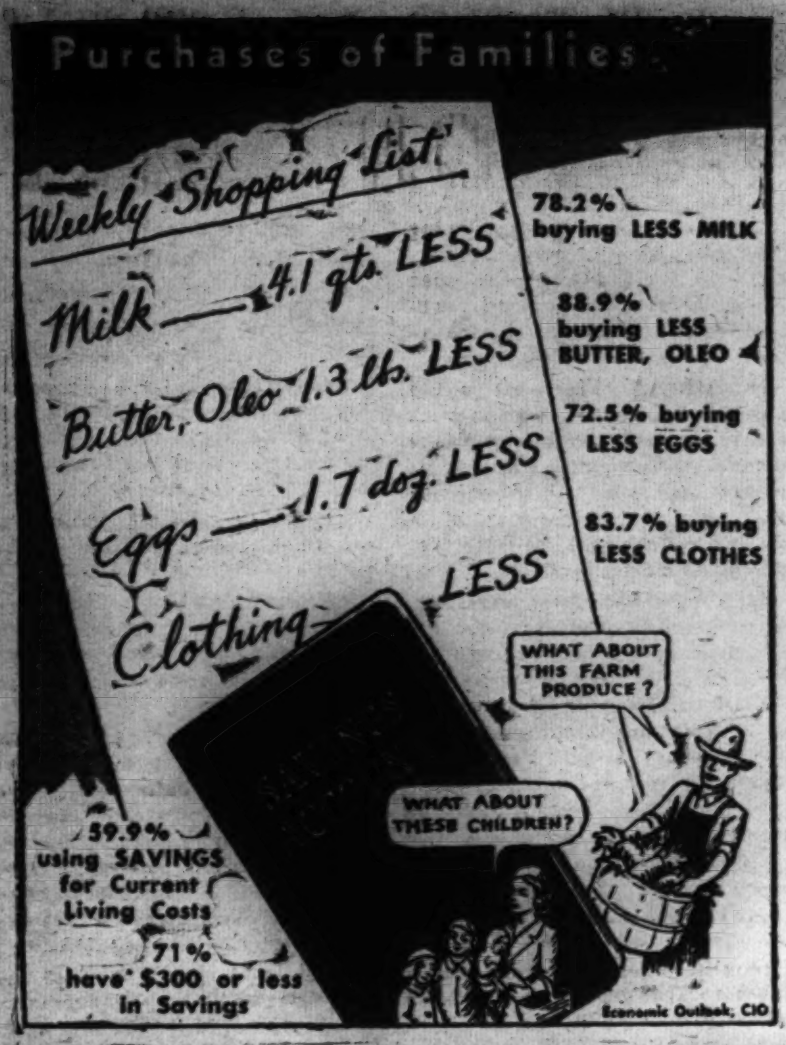
The FTA Press and Publicity Department this week announced a change in the handling of the mailing list for FTA News.

In a letter to all local financial secretaries and presidents, the department reported that equipment to handle the mailing of the paper from the national office had been purchased.

The letter urged all locals to send complete membership lists, in alphabetical order, to the national office by April 15.

"Getting an accurate up-to-date file of our entire membership is our first aim in order to realize the most efficient use of this new equipment in servicing our members," it said.

Any questions about this procedure should be addressed to the Press and Publicity Department.


Purchases of Families
Weekly Shopping List
Milk — 4.1 qts. LESS
Butter, Oleo 1.3 lbs. LESS
Eggs — 1.7 doz. LESS
Clothing — LESS
78.2% buying LESS MILK
88.9% buying LESS BUTTER, OLEO
72.5% buying LESS EGGS
83.7% buying LESS CLOTHES
WHAT ABOUT THIS FARM PRODUCE?
WHAT ABOUT THESE CHILDREN?
59.9% using SAVINGS for Current Living Costs
71% have $300 or less in Savings
Economic Outlook, CIO

Tell It To Congress

Bills to Wreck Wage Hours Act
Wiley (R.) Wis., and Others

Now under discussion in Senate. Behind smokescreen that amendments apply only to portal-to-portal suits, bill reported by Senate Judiciary Committee allows employers to rewrite Wage Hour Law to suit themselves and makes it impossible for workers to collect damages. Bill already passed by House. This is the first big anti-labor bill before Congress.

ACTION: Pour in wires to your two senators, write President Truman, get all groups who do not want to see the present inadequate 40 cent minimum made worse to do the same.

Anti-Labor Bills, Senate

Hearings completed on bills to outlaw checkoff, union security, deny right to strike and repeal Wagner Act. Committee now meeting in private to draw up a bill, report it to the Senate.

ACTION: Write senators to oppose all bills—every one limits collective bargaining, attacks unions while doing nothing about monopolistic employers.

House

Chairman Hartley of House Labor Committee has already announced contents of bill, similar to last year's Case bill, although labor witnesses have just begun to testify. Committee refusing time to labor while hearing petty grievances of employers. Smith bill and Hoffman bill define most food processing workers "agricultural labor" and deny them rights under Wagner Act.

ACTION: Write your representatives to protest attacks on FTA workers and on all labor. Let them know the people will not take it.

Rent Control

Appropriations for OPA cut, allowing agency to function only until April 30, 1947. Senate Banking Committee reconsidering bill to lift ceilings 10% and proposing substitute turning rent control back to states (Sparkman, D., Ala.) Withdrawal of Buck bill is partial victory, but return to states means end of rent control.

ACTION: Write your senators to support Murray Wagner bill extending rent control as is.

How The Press Lies

Here's as pretty an example of how newspapers lie about labor as has been seen in a long time. It comes from the Associated Press and the Washington Times-Herald, and it deals with that old, old bogey, the "red" control of unions.

Last week, while FTA was testifying on anti-labor bills in the Senate, leaders of the CIO Electrical Workers (UE) denied vigorously that their union was "communist-led."

The Associated Press noted this denial, and then said in its story: "But a different view was held by the House unAmerican Activities Committee which called other UE witnesses for the opening of its investigation of alleged communist infiltration of unions.

"Appearing as voluntary witnesses before the House group were . . ." and the story lists a couple of phonies who claim UE and everybody but themselves is a red.

The story then got more detailed, with pompous pronouncements from the unAmerican chairman, Rep. Thomas Hartley (R., N. J.) to the effect that "we intend to spotlight the sorry spectacle of how outright communists are dominating some of the most vital unions" and so on.

The only trouble with this AP story is that it just didn't happen. The two witnesses quoted didn't appear before the unAmerican committee. They didn't testify. They simply weren't there.

But Associated Press and the Times-Herald were — with lies about unions printed there all over the front page.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS...

FTA WAGE POLICY

By Joseph Califf
Research Director

(In the March 1 issue of FTA News, Research Director Califf dealt with four basic FTA wage policy questions — the need for general increases; the "cost of living bonus" trap the boss tries to lay for you; the basic minimum wage of 75c an hour and overtime pay for all work over eight hours a day and 40 hours a week. In this issue, he finishes the discussion on wages. Next "Here Are Your Facts" will deal with other contract points. Watch for it.)

Equal Pay for Equal Work. We have a long way to go to establish conditions where the rate of pay for every job is based solely on the skill, effort, and other requirements of the job itself. In many plants women draw less pay than men for work of the same or greater skill, and other forms of wage discrimination are also found in some plants.

While making every effort to eliminate unfair wage differentials between jobs, locals should not fall for or become party to company "job evaluation" plans. Such plans are supposed to provide a scientiéc method for attaining proper classification of jobs, but in practice they are rigged by the boss to keep most workers in the lowest paid jobs and maintain discriminatory practices.

The union must insist upon its right to bargain on the proper rate for each job regardless of any job evaluation schemes which the employer may use in the plant.

So that every worker may fully understand the wage scale, the complete list of jobs and wage rates in the plant should be set forth in full in the contract.

Incentive Pay Systems. A large proportion of FTA's members work in plants which have piece work or other kinds of incentive systems. Recognizing that such systems are tools developed by the bosses for getting more work out of workers and paying less for it, the union's wage policy sets as a long-range goal the complete elimination of all incentive systems from our industries.

Since this goal cannot be fully achieved for some time, the policy calls for correction of the chief abuses in the incentive and piece work systems we work under by securing for the union the right to bargain on all phases of the incentive system.

Guaranteed Wages. Some FTA locals already have secured agreements which guarantee a minimum wage or minimum number of hours of work, either on an annual or a weekly basis. The new policy calls for increased efforts to obtain guaranteed wages for year-round workers, plus seasonal guarantees for workers hired for the peak season.

Group Insurance. All local unions should seek benefits protecting their members against loss of income due to illness, injury, or other causes beyond the worker's control. This may be accomplished by establishment of a welfare fund, group insurance policies, paid sick leave, or various combinations of these.

Other Wage Demands. Other planks in the union's wage platform include at least two weeks paid vacation for all workers with one year's seniority, with proportionate vacation rights for seasonal workers; seven paid holidays; minimum night shift bonus of 10c an hour; four hours call-in pay; adequate paid rest periods; paid lunch periods; and full pay for all time on the job.

The policy adopted by the Convention on contract questions other than wages will be discussed in a later column.

WORKERS FIGHT SAME BATTLES AGAINST BOSSES EVERYWHERE

Workers all over the world fight the same battles against the same conditions and the same bosses that we fight against here. Sometimes the bosses are identical, and frequently workers thousands of miles away find themselves in the same struggle.

Here is a roundup of recent workers' struggles going on in widely separated parts of the world, taken from Allied Labor News and other sources.

INDIA: Indian sharecroppers are in revolt against landlords who are trying to continue their robbery of 50 percent of the crop. Sharecroppers are demanding a reduction to one-third.

In one big area of India—Bengal province—the sharecroppers have forced the British dominated government to recognize one-third as the landlord's share. This was won after a four months fight in which 12 croppers were killed by police, 300 wounded and more than 1,000 croppers' huts burned.

Indian landlords did well out of the war. When nearly four million peasants died in the 1942-43 famines, Bengal landowners made $450,000,000 in black market grain operations.

* * *

ENGLAND: British workers, over 600,000 of whom are organized in the London Trades Council, are protesting death sentences given two Negro boys in Bilbo-land, 3,000 miles from London.

They sent a sharp note of protest to the U. S. Ambassador in London and urged members of the British Parliament to help save the two boys, James Lewis, 14, and Charlie Trudell, 15. The boys were framed on a murder charge and given a "legal lynch" sentence by an all white jury in Mississippi.

* * *

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y.: Anti-labor laws in the U. S.—or any other country—would become a matter of concern for the United Nations, if a resolution proposed to UN by the World Federation of Trade Unions is accepted by UN's Economic and Social Council.

The World Federation of Trade Unions—to which FTA is affiliated through CIO—has proposed that the UN body set up a permanent committee on union rights, to go into action any time a member nation violates basic labor rights.

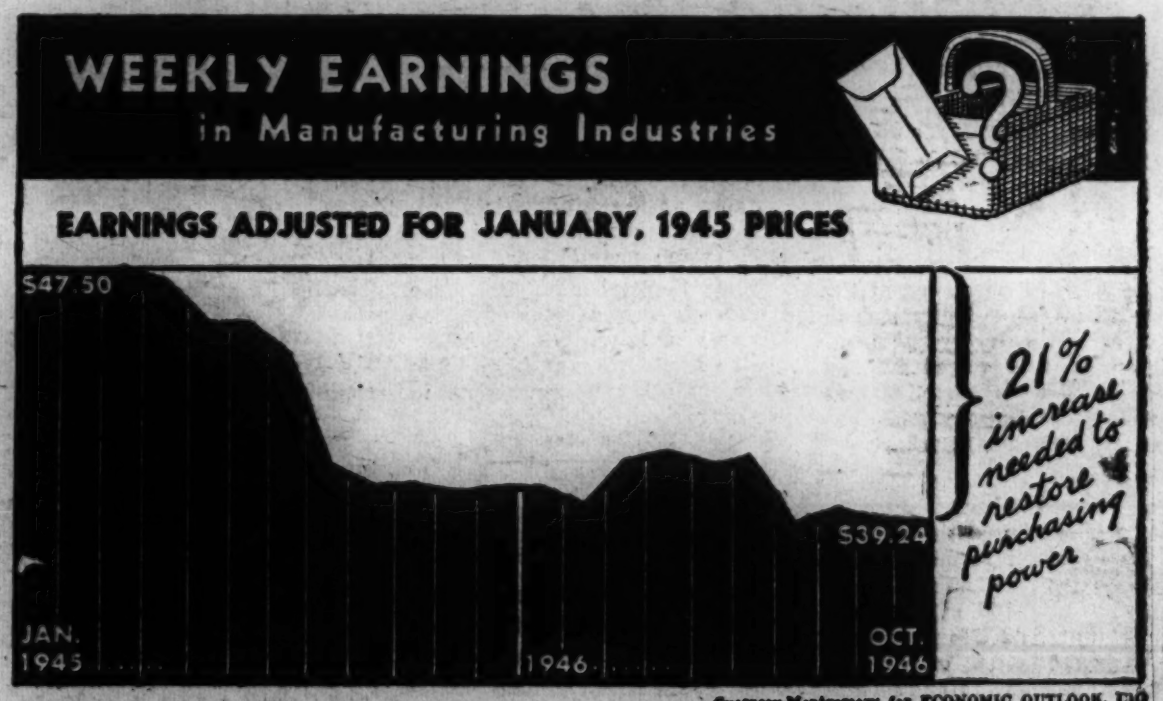
"Trade union rights are recognized as an inviolable prerogative enjoyed by workers for the protection of their interests," the WFTU resolution said.

"All legislation that places restrictions on these principles is contrary to the economic and social collaboration laid down by the charter of the United Nations."

* * *

ENGLAND: English agricultural workers are trying to get rid of the "tied cottage" or employer owned house, which he uses to threaten workers in case they protest against low wages.

DOWN... DOWN... DOWN... Goes the American Standard of Living



FTA LAWS CONTRAST TO OLD AFL RULE

New by-laws adopted by Local 82, Modesto, California, pledge the FTA membership in four independent canneries "... to work concertedly with the general labor movement, and with the small farmer and the farm laborer, for economic and legislative improvements for the general welfare of all working men and women, in factories or in fields."

The by-laws, product of weeks of work by a rank-and-file by-law committee headed by President Roy Maramonte, define the local as having "... democratic rank-and-file control regardless of craft, age, sex, race, color, nationality, religion or political beliefs ..."

N. E. Daniels, a member of the committee, describes them as "the foundation of a real democratic union" and contrasts them with by-laws which the same workers previously knew under the AFL.

One feature of the by-laws calls for the election of officers in July when canneries are near peak operation. Under the AFL elections were held in November when only a small percentage of the total work force was employed.

The by-laws also call for elected shop stewards for each department in each plant and for the creation of a shop steward's council. Grievance and negotiating committees are also to be elected from each plant. The following standing union committees are called for: education and research, publicity and press, organizing, PAC, recreation and social and welfare.

Members of the by-laws committee, in addition to Maramonts and Daniels, were Sarah Miller, Lillian Jones, John Harnish, Carl Couey, Carl Zalaco and Al D. Echols.

FTA's Local 80 sends its Veterans Committee, headed by Michael Gallo (2nd from right) out into the Camden streets collecting signatures for passage of a New Jersey state bonus bill for ex-Gi's. Bill was put into hopper by state Assemblyman John Grogan, a member of the CIO Shipbuilding Workers Union. Over 2,000 cards were signed in a short time.

WIN RAISES IN TWO AM. TOBACCO PLANTS

A wage increase of nine cents an hour won by Local 186 at the Philadelphia plant of the American Tobacco Co. brought total increases to 26c an hour since VJ Day.

The new contract under which the increase was negotiated included a clause to reopen wages after six months.

Members of Local 186's negotiating committee were: Margaret Kendig, Mary Turner, Anna Tarsatana, Josephine Pozzuto, Edith May and Business Agent George Ardlean. They were assisted by International Vice-President Armando Ramirez and Regional Director Lewis Bentzley.

Local 15's new contract at the Charleston plant of the American Tobacco Co. brought a six cent an hour increase, and increased vacations of one week after six months and two weeks after five years. Important firsts in the new contract are a year's maternity leave without loss of seniority, and six paid holidays.

Irrevocable checkoff, paid time for grievance-proceedings, and a six percent night shift differential were also won.

Members of Local 15's negotiating committee were: S. B. Graham, Celestine Bunch, Louise Simmons, Ella Collins, Evelina Gourdine, Arbel Lane, John Cummings, Odell Bates, Lilly May Marsh, Corinne Cokley, Mary Lee Williams, Mildred B. Simmons, and President Reuel Stanfield. They were assisted by International Organizer Lawrence McGurty.

Workers at the Trenton plant got a nine cent increase last November.

GRAVEDIGGERS STRIKE FOR A DECENT LIVING

Gravediggers have a right to live decently and to win this right some 35 FTA cemetery workers, members of Local 293, have been on strike at St. Michael's Cemetery in Astoria, N. Y., since February 5.

Demands of the strikers include a 45% wage increase, 11 paid holidays a year, six days sick leave, two weeks vacation with pay, and a sick benefit and hospitalization plan which will cost the company about three percent. The men, members of Local 293, are not covered by social security laws.

Franke Francisco, one of the strikers, described their case like this—"I'm 60. I've worked here 19 years. Food costs much and pay is so little. Too bad about dead people, but we must eat to live." Wages are 99 cents an hour for gravediggers and 88 cents an hour for laborers.

82 AIDS FARMERS

Local 82 of Modesto, Calif., this week blasted at attempts of big business interests and corporation farmers to crowd out small farmers in the use of water from the Central Valley reclamation project.

Opposition to relaxation of the existing 160 acre limitation on use of project water by one property owner was voiced by the union in letters to Senators Knowland and Downey and Congressman Bertram Gearhart.

Roy Maramonte, Local 82 president, himself a small farmer, said that the local includes a number of small farmers in its ranks who voted unanimously in support of the 160 acre limitation. He described efforts to junk the limitation as originating with corporation farmers who own thousands of acres of land.

Win 96c Base

A 96c an hour minimum wage was won by Local 42 for the workers at the Linde Air Products Co., in Miami, Fla., with its latest wage negotiations.

Since September of 1946, the Local has won a total of 20 to 25c an hour in wage increases for all the Linde workers, in addition to many other improvements in working conditions.

WIN 75c MINIMUM

A seven cent an hour increase won by Local 95 at the Federated Egg Producers Cooperative in Hightstown, N. J., brought minimum wages up to 75c an hour.

Turn Down Shippers

By Ann Tinnon, Reporter

At a meeting on March 5, 1947 of over four hundred members of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers' Union, Local 78, shippers' proposals for the 1947 vegetable and melon contract were rejected by an overwhelming majority. Proposals included a wage increase of approximately six per cent. Chief objection to the proposal was the fact that unemployment insurance was not granted to the Arizona workers, and that the wage increase was not sufficient to compensate for this omission.

The shippers' proposals were presented by Holman Day, Chairman of the Joint Council of Local 78, and Jack Montgomery, FTA Regional Director.

Rank and file speakers won the support of the meeting on the grounds that unemployment insurance has been agreed to all by all shippers in California for their shed workers. It was further pointed out that the unemployment insurance would make it possible for the local people to maintain their standards of living between crops. It was also argued that unemployment insurance for shed workers would provide a minimum of $150,000 which would be spent in the valley and help maintain prosperous business conditions.

One of the rank and file speakers stated that actually the granting of the unemployment insurance to the workers in the Salt River Valley wouldn't cost the employers anything but a little extra bookkeeping, since unemployment insurance which is 2.7 percent, is deductible from the federal income tax.

A Committee consisting of Duke Cunningham, Chuck Feller, Charlie Law, Dick Turner, Herschel Hancock, Art O'Leary and G. S. Burrell was elected to assist President Rufus Bell in concluding negotiations.

"It Happened Before—It Can Happen Again" is CIO's newest leaflet pointing out that pre-1929 boss attacks on labor led directly to the Hoover depression. Profits jumped, labor's living standards went down and then boom—we had the crash. Same thing now—if reactionaries in Congress have their way. Order from Publicity Dept., CIO, Washington 6, D.C. $12.00 per 1,000

How They Voted

(Continued from Page 2)

OHIO
- Raymond H. Burke (R)—W
- Robert F. Jones (R)—W
- Cliff Clevenger (R)—W
- Frederick C. Smith (R)—W
- Homer A. Ramey (R)—W
- Walter B. Huber (D)—R
- George H. Bender (R)—W

OREGON
- Walter Norblad (R)—W
- Homer D. Angell (R)—W
- Harris Ellsworth (R)—W

PENNSYLVANIA
- James Gallagher (R)—W
- Robert N. McGarvey (R)—W
- Hardie Scott (R)—W
- Franklin J. Maloney (R)—W
- Geo. W. Sarbacher, Jr. (R)—W
- Hugh D. Scott, Jr. (R)—O
- E. Wallace Chadwick (R)—W
- Paul B. Dague (R)—W
- Mitchell Jenkins (R)—W
- Fred. A. Muhlenberg (R)—W
- Chester H. Gross (R)—W
- Carroll D. Kearns (R)—W
- John McDowell (R)—W
- Robert J. Corbett (R)—W
- James G. Fulton (R)—W
- Herman P. Eberharter (D)—R
- Frank Buchanan (D)—R

SOUTH CAROLINA
- L. Mendel Rivers (D)—W

TENNESSEE
- J. Percy Priest (D)—W
- Clifford Davis (D)—W
- Tom Murray (D)—W

TEXAS
- Albert Thomas (D)—W
- Joseph J. Mansfield (D)—O
- John E. Lyle (D)—W
- Paul J. Kilday (D)—W

VIRGINIA
- Porter Hardy, Jr. (D)—W
- J. Vaughan Gary (D)—W
- Thomas B. Standley (D)—W

WASHINGTON
- Homer R. Jones (R)—O

WEST VIRGINIA
- Francis J. Love (R)—W

WISCONSIN
- Lawrence H. Smith (R)—W
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